

MELTING ICE, MENDING CREATION:

A CATHOLIC APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Educational Initiative



Facilitator's Guide and
Educational Kit

YOUTH VERSION



TAKE
THE ST. FRANCIS PLEDGE
TO CARE FOR CREATION AND THE POOR



INTRODUCTION



THE CATHOLIC COALITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE THANKS YOU

for joining with thousands of others to conduct an education session highlighting the Pontifical Academy of Science's Working Group (PAS) statement, *Fate of Mountain Glaciers in the Anthropocene*. This year's Feast of St. Francis program will also feature the photographic evidence of climate change and melting glaciers as documented by James Balog and his *Extreme Ice Survey*.

WHAT IS THIS EVENT?

You are joining thousands of Catholics and other people of faith to learn, grow, share, and act on climate change and its impacts on both God's Creation and on the life and dignity of all people, especially the poorest and most vulnerable.

WHY NOW?

Hosting this session around the Feast of St. Francis highlights St. Francis's concern for both Creation and those at the margins of society:

- ✦ Blessed John Paul II named St. Francis of Assisi the *Patron Saint of those who promote ecology*.
- ✦ Pope Francis, who took his name in part to lift up the importance of creation care, has already both inspired us with his humility and challenged us with his words, urging us to make care for Creation and care for the poor a significant part of our Catholic witness:

Let us protect Christ in our lives, so that we can protect others, so that we can protect creation! ~ POPE FRANCIS, MARCH 19, 2013

- ✦ A little-known but important study from the Pontifical Academy of Sciences is due further recognition by Catholics, and its call for action must be better heeded by all. Quoting from the document:

The PAS Working Group calls on all people and nations to recognize the serious and potentially irreversible impacts of human activities that generate excess greenhouse gases and other pollutants as well as by changes in forests, wetlands, grasslands, and other land uses. (p. 1)

While the Coalition is producing these materials for use around the Feast of St. Francis, you should feel free to offer this educational event at any time.

OUTCOMES

AT THE END OF THE 90-MINUTE PROGRAM, YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY WILL:

1. **Understand** more fully the *reality of climate change* and authentic Church teaching on this issue;
2. **Be inspired** by Catholic teaching about climate change and the call to respond;
3. **Deepen awareness** that this call is to BOTH care for God's gift of Creation AND care for the life and dignity of those most impacted by environmental neglect and climate change—namely, the poor and vulnerable;
4. **Engage** both personally and as a community in concrete ways that respond to the Catholic call to be better stewards of Creation and protectors of the vulnerable **by taking the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor** or other actions;
5. **Build leadership** for future efforts to integrate Catholic values of environmental stewardship, protection of human life and dignity, and outreach to the poor.

WHAT'S IN THIS KIT?

All the materials you will need for a successful Melting Ice, Mending Creation educational event can be accessed in this kit and by going to the [Melting Ice, Mending Creation Resources webpage](#).

PLEASE NOTE: in order to receive the free Prayer Cards which are an integral part of this program, you must also register your participation. See "SIGN UP HERE" on the [Melting Ice, Mending Creation Resource webpage](#).

Promotional materials you will need include "editable" resources that can be modified to fit your needs with blank spaces for suggested text inserts:

1) RESOURCES:

- a) Bulletin Announcement (1 side)
- b) Bulletin Insert (2 sides)
- c) Sample Press Release
- d) Promotional Poster / Flyer

All these promotional resources are available for download here:

[Melting Ice, Mending Creation Resource page](#)

2) FACILITATORS' GUIDE:

Below is a comprehensive guide that will help you make your event successful, and includes suggested prayers, processes, and action steps.

We believe that this program will help you and the Coalition fulfill our mutual goals: **to educate and inspire action on climate change within our faith community.**

But in the end, this is YOUR program. If you feel that you must adapt and modify it based on your particular needs, audience or other factors, please do so.

3) HANDOUTS:

Also included below are other resources you will want to have during your event:

- 1) [St. Francis Pledge Sign Up Sheet](#)
- 2) [Peer Leadership Team Sign Up Sheet](#)
- 3) [Resources for Further Study and Action](#) (two pages)
- 4) [Catholic Climate Covenant Partnership – Planning Guide for Dioceses, Parishes and Schools Take the St. Francis Pledge](#) (two pages)
- 5) [Friending Planet Earth Sign Up Sheet](#)
- 6) [Book promotion for *Environmental Justice and Climate Change: Assessing Pope Benedict XVI's Ecological Vision for the Catholic Church in the United States*](#)

4) APPENDICES:

We highly recommend that you spend some time reviewing the additional information in the appendices that comes at the end of this document. This will enable you to become well-versed in the current science of and Church teaching on climate change, and provide a certain level of comfort with potentially difficult questions.

Handling Difficult Questions:

We particularly recommend that you take the time to review the Frequently Asked Questions, to which there is a link in [APPENDIX A](#). While it is lengthy, it is also thorough and will help you handle any audience member who voices his/her discontent with either the science of climate change or the Church's involvement in the issue. You are also encouraged to become familiar with the Catholic Teaching page (especially the section on "Climate Change and Population").

As a facilitator you are encouraged not to allow such a person to dominate the discussion time. Remind her/him that this program is about understanding how the Catholic Church is authentically responding to the issue as articulated by recent popes and other Church leaders, including the U.S. Catholic bishops. Say to that person that you will be happy to try and address her/his concerns at the conclusion of the program.

THE DETAILS

Following is a complete and comprehensive plan to help you with a successful presentation and discussion of these materials. While it is specifically designed for Catholic audiences, anyone of goodwill can undoubtedly benefit from this program.

HOW MUCH TIME DOES THIS PROGRAM NEED?

From the opening introduction to the discussion and activities you should **plan on a total of 1.5 to 2 hours, depending on the degree of engagement of the youth.**

As you begin your planning, the following information might be helpful in order to enlist others in your organization who can help move the program forward:

WHO SHOULD BE PART OF A “MELTING ICE, MENDING CREATION” EVENT?

Anyone! However, this particular resource is designed with high school-aged youth in mind. (You are encouraged to review the other [Melting Ice, Mending Creation Educational Kits](#) appropriate for other audiences.) When planning this type of an event for young people, you are encouraged to invite both adult and youth peer leaders who can serve as small group facilitators. Considering that environmental justice and care of creation is often near and dear to the hearts of young people, you might consider an intergenerational event that serves to instill hope, inspire people of all ages and demonstrate the leadership potential of the young church. Make a special effort to share any youth education initiatives with your diocesan Social Action Director and Youth Ministry Director, school or parish peace & justice committee members, and school or parish pro-life committee members and welcome them to attend.

WHERE SHOULD THE EVENT BE HELD?

Try to first determine the potential turnout for the event, as this will dictate the size of the room or hall you might need. Work with your diocesan/parish/school administration to secure a venue. NOTE: The venue must have access to the Internet OR you should be prepared to have a computer with a separate WIFI connection (for example, tethered to a smart phone or a WIFI card or hotspot).

You will also need a basic audio system to hear the Prezi presentation and film.

Consider purchasing—or seeking a donation for—snacks: drinks, popcorn, etc. Develop signs as necessary to ensure that people know the location, date and time of the event. You can also create a Flyer (see Resources for Publicity below) with information appropriate to your program (date, time, etc.).

Work through the appropriate channels of communication in your diocese/parish/school to ensure widespread knowledge of the event (e.g., diocesan newsletter, parish bulletin, bulletin boards, texting and e-mail systems, diocesan/parish website/school and social media, etc), as well as an article about the program in your diocesan/school newspaper.).

RESOURCES FOR PUBLICITY

Each of these resources can be modified to fit your needs with blank spaces for suggested text inserts:

- 1) Bulletin Insert/Flyer (1 page)
- 2) Bulletin Insert/Flyer (2 pages)
- 3) Sample Press Release
- 4) Flyer as a PPT page OR Flyer in editable Word format

All these resources are available for download here: [Melting Ice, Mending Creation Resource page](#)

OTHER MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A comfortable room with enough chairs for your anticipated audience
- A video screen
- A laptop computer
- **An Internet connection**
- A projector

IMPORTANT NOTE: The opening presentation can be found online at: <https://prezi.com/vpe3jsxortrq/for-youth-melting-ice-mending-creation/> (There will also be a link to this on the Coalition's website within the Feast of St. Francis 2013 resource materials). This utilizes the Prezi platform. The presentation also includes and embedded copy of the James Balog TED Talk. You will need to open this link at least 10 minutes prior to the start of your program. Additional instructions about how to use this Prezi presentation are embedded in the script below. However, **WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND** that you become familiar with this presentation format well before your event.

HOW TO START THE PRESENTATION: Once you have landed on this Prezi website, you will click the "Present Online" button just below the presentation and to the right of the "Edit" button. Once clicked, you should see a blue button, "Start Online Presentation." Click this to load the presentation. Next, click the "full screen" icon in the lower right-hand corner of the Prezi. Now you are ready to begin.

- Index cards (enough for each participant)

- Pens or pencils (enough for each participant)
- Newsprint (enough sheets to provide one for as many groups of 5 to 6 that you anticipate)
- Markers
- Clipboards to accommodate the size of your group and to attach the two Sign Up sheets.
- Handouts:

Clipboards can be used to accommodate the size of your group for the following 3 Sign Up sheets:

[HANDOUT 1](#) – St. Francis Pledge Sign Up Sheet (one page, see below) to take names of people who wish to commit to fulfilling the St. Francis Pledge.

[HANDOUT 2](#) – Peer Leadership Team Sign Up Sheet (one page, see below) for young people interested in continuing to discuss the film, glean through the ideas for future action from the small group and decide ways to implement future action or projects in your parish or school.

[HANDOUT 5](#) – Friending Planet Earth Sign Up Sheet for individuals who are interested in learning more and can commit to a 6-session small group process.

PLEASE NOTE: While we encourage people to sign up for the St. Francis Pledge on our website, we have also found that a paper sign up sheet is most effective for immediately capturing the excitement generated at group meetings. In order for us to contact those who sign up for the Pledge via the paper sign up sheet, we ask that someone from your group commit to manually entering each signee's information from HANDOUT 1 onto our website (<http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/the-st-francis-pledge/>) within one week of the event. This is an invaluable step that will help us grow our network of supporters. We thank you in advance for your generous commitment of time. REMINDER: Please ask people to write their email addresses legibly.

The following handouts should have enough printed copies for distribution to each participant.

[HANDOUT 3](#) – Resources for Further Study and Action (two pages, see below. As many copies as there are participants.)

[HANDOUT 4](#) – Catholic Climate Covenant Partnership- Planning Guide for Parishes and Schools to Take the St. Francis Pledge (two pages, see below) to be shared when you offer tools and ideas after Group Discussion. (NOTE: If this is a diocesan or multi-parish event, you may need to provide as many copies as parishes represented. Otherwise a few samples should be enough.)

- St. Francis Prayer Cards: these will be mailed to you prior to your event date—enough for the number of people you indicated when you registered for the event. See “SIGN UP HERE” on the [Melting Ice, Mending Creation Resource webpage](#).
- Optional: Drinks (soft drinks, coffee, etc.), snacks

[HANDOUT 6](#) – Book promotion for *Environmental Justice and Climate Change: Assessing Pope Benedict XVI's Ecological Vision for the Catholic Church in the United States*.

THE SCRIPT

Following is a comprehensive set of directions and a suggested script that you, as the facilitator, might wish to follow. Directions are in regular font, suggested text to convey to your group is in *italics*.

Prepare nametags (if possible) in advance of the gathering, labeling each nametag in a corner with a number that will correspond to a small group assignment. Determine the number of groups based on the approximate number of young people you expect to attend. Ideally, small groups should consist of one adult or peer leader, identified in advance, and 4-5 young people.

As participants arrive, greet each person and provide a nametag and a marker to write his/her name on it. Try to distribute nametags so that close friends do not always receive the same small group number. Participants do not need to know the reason for the nametag number at the time of arrival. (Note: If you know the names of all who will attend prior to the gathering, prepare in advance the nametags with the names of participants. Small group assignments should ensure that participants are mixed well in order to meet and get to know each other better.)

Other tasks are as follows:

- Give to each adult or peer group leader enough index cards, pens/pencils, and St. Francis Prayer Cards for distribution during the gathering.
- Identify a youth leader to read the St. Francis Prayer after the icebreaker and during the introduction.
- Once all members have arrived, begin with the following icebreaker.

ICEBREAKER (10 minutes):

Clump: Invite all participants to an open area and ask them to pair up with someone they do not know well or with whom they did not arrive for this gathering. Invite participants to introduce themselves to their partners by sharing their name, school and one thing they truly appreciate about nature.

After a short time, let participants know you will shout a category upon which they are to quickly clump together with all others who share the same characteristic within that category. Give the example of grade level in which all freshmen or 9th graders clump together, all sophomores or 10th graders clump together, etc. In each round of clumping, participants should walk around within the group, quickly introducing themselves to others they do not know and sharing aloud the one thing they most appreciate about nature. (NOTE: Feel free to add your own categories. For the last round, instruct participants to clump with those who have the same number on their nametag. After they do so, ask the groups to find a place to sit together and share one last round of introductions with their small group.)

SAMPLE CLUMP CATEGORIES	
Grade Level	Eye Color
Eye Color	Month of Birthday
Month of Birthday	Number of Siblings
Favorite Ice Cream Flavor	Favorite Holiday
Favorite TV Show	Small Group Number on Nametag

INTRODUCTION AND OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES):

Tonight we are going through a process that will help us all understand authentic Catholic teaching on climate change, recognize that human-caused climate change is happening now, and appreciate how climate change is impacting people around the world today. What we hope is that this will begin a serious conversation about the links between their plight and our own ability to make a difference here and now. We will encourage your thoughts and ideas about what we can do to make a difference — both individually and as a group (name your group).

But before we begin, let us take a moment and listen to the Prayer of St. Francis.

Ask the volunteer prayer leader to begin with the sign of the cross and to follow by leading the group in prayer.

After the prayer (10 minutes):

We began our evening in the clump activity by sharing what we appreciate about nature. What were some of the themes you heard from the sharing?

After a few answers, continue by saying:

Think about what you have heard. Indeed, we share a great connection with creation, with the environment. It provides solace and peace. We find enjoyment and pleasure. We are able to seek activity that at times helps us to grow, at other times restores or rejuvenates us. Let's explore this connection even further.

Each group has a stack of index cards. Take a moment to recall your activities yesterday. Each person is invited to grab a pen and list on an index card at least five connections shared between you and the environment, between you and the Earth. Try to consider as much as possible from simple activity that is shared, habitual or innate to activity that is more unique and personal.

Allow a couple of minutes for participants to write down their ideas. When most have completed the task, ask them to share their answers within their small groups. After a few minutes, ask for everyone's attention in the large group and continue by asking:

What did you notice in this sharing? What can we conclude about our connection to the Earth?

What are the dangers in not appreciating or recognizing the many connections we share with creation? What are the benefits?

After a brief discussion, introduce the multimedia presentation.

Appreciating both the gift of creation itself as well as the broad and deep connections we share with creation is an important step in recognizing the importance of caring for creation and understanding our role in caring for creation. We have taken that first step. By digging deeper, we discover that the Catholic Church has been a consistent advocate for the environment, and that this tradition of caring for creation is rooted in our belief of a Creator God who asks that of us.

So, let's go deeper. First we will view a brief slide presentation outlining both authentic Church teaching on climate change and a special report from the Pontifical Academy of Sciences on how climate change is impacting glaciers around the world. How many of you knew there was an Academy of Sciences in the Vatican? That very fact demonstrates how deeply we care!

Next we will see a TED talk video by James Balog, a science photographer who has documented the changing glaciers around the world. Through the use of time lapse photography, Balog has compiled the "Extreme Ice Survey," one of the most impressive catalogues of visual evidence showing the impact of human-caused climate change.

Then we will open up for a discussion.

PRESENTATION (35 MINUTES):

PART 1: CLIMATE CHANGE AND CATHOLIC TEACHING (15 MINUTES)

Play the Prezi presentation slides 1-23 (approx 10 mins.). You will stop this portion of the presentation at slide 23 before going to PART 2. These first 23 slides are narrated with embedded audio.

PLEASE NOTE: You or a helper will need to advance the slides during the presentation. Once you have landed on this Prezi website, click the "full screen" icon in the right corner of the gray bar located below each slide. Next, click on the right arrow button in the middle of the gray bar. Repeat this step at the end of each slide. DO NOT click the play button in the left corner of the gray bar, as this will send the presentation into auto-play and disrupt the sequence later in the program.

Discussion about the Report (5 minutes)

The report says that examining rates of glacial melt offers the "clearest evidence we have for a change in the climate system" and that "human-induced changes in carbon-dioxide... are taking place on 10-100 year timescales – 100 times as fast" as past 10,000 year time scales.

How does this evidence strike you? Please turn to your neighbor and offer your initial thoughts (2 minutes). Now, does anyone wish to share their brief thoughts with the group? (3 minutes).

PART 2: VISUAL EVIDENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE (20 MINUTES)

Now we turn to the TED talk about receding glaciers around the world.

Play Prezi slides 24-26.

Play Prezi slides 24-26. The TED Talk is embedded on slide 26, and when you arrive at this slide, click the black box to start the film and move your cursor to the side to hide the gray bar at the bottom of the film. (20 minutes). (If in the unlikely event you cannot get this to play properly, you can view the film at: http://www.ted.com/talks/james_balog_time_lapse_proof_of_extreme_ice_loss.html)

After the film, say:

Let us take a moment in silence to briefly reflect on what we just saw.

Discussion about the film (15 minutes):

In order to get a conversation started about the presentation, begin the small group discussions with a few provocative questions.

What are your immediate reactions to the images and information in the TED talk? How did it make you feel? Please turn again to your small group and share your initial thoughts (2 minutes).

Now does anyone wish to share one word or phrase with the larger group that expresses their initial reaction to the film? (3 minutes)

Advance to Prezi slide #27 which poses the questions below. It is recommended that you ask people to pair-off and share with each other their thoughts to the following questions for 5 minutes. Then, everyone should reconvene to share in the larger group for an additional 5 minutes (10 mins.):

IN SMALL GROUPS:

- *Did viewing the images from The Extreme Ice Survey “shape the way you think” (as James Balog says):*
 - *About climate change?*
 - *About the role of humans with respect to climate change?*
- *James Balog says: “We don’t have a problem of politics and policy we have a problem of perception.” How do you experience climate change as a perception problem?*
 - *How can we change this perception problem? (List these on newsprint and revisit during the Take Action section)*
- *James Balog calls this present crisis “An opportunity to face the greatest challenge of our generation, in fact, of our century.”*
 - *As a young person, how does this make you feel?*
 - *What sense of calling do you have about this? How do you feel about meeting the challenge of this calling? What resources do you need to “face” this challenge?*

PART 3: OUR RESPONSE: UNDERSTANDING CHURCH TEACHING AND TAKING ACTION (20 MINUTES)

Advance to Prezi slide #29 which lists the eight principles below. You may wish to have 8 different participants read them in succession after you introduce this segment. A few second pause would allow the listener a brief reflection after each is read.

In this last section of our program we'll look at some concrete actions we can take to respond to human-caused climate change.

The Catholic approach to climate change is framed by at least eight core elements of Church teaching that can help inform our response to climate change.

As you hear these principles, reflect on how they relate to what we have seen and discussed today and how they inform our response to climate change.

1. **prudence** invites us to act based on thoughtful, reasoned analysis;
2. all of creation is endowed by God with **intrinsic goodness**;
3. **human life and human dignity** are compromised by the adverse effects of climate change;
4. **poor and vulnerable people**, to whom and for whose needs we must show a preferential option, are disproportionately impacted by climate change;
5. **justice** demands a wide-eyed recognition that those contributing most to the problem and those facing its worst impacts are not the same group;
6. the **common good** recognizes that creation is a gift intended for all;
7. **solidarity** encourages us to recognize the kinship shared by all of creation—human and non-human;
8. **hospitality** calls us to welcome the stranger with love and compassion.

The Vatican report boldly claims that a "business-as-usual model will not be possible because of both resource depletion and environmental damages." Given the elements of Catholic tradition that the Church uses to frame the issue of climate change, let's now examine some responses to address the climate crisis.

GOING DEEPER: AN OPTIONAL ACTIVITY (15 MINUTES)

The Vatican report boldly claims that a "business-as-usual model will not be possible because of both resource depletion and environmental damages."

Given the eight principles of Catholic teaching that the Church uses to frame the issue of climate change, let's now examine some responses to address the climate crisis. Let's engage in (choose A or B)

- (A) **a visioning process.** What would our own society look like if it was informed by Catholic social teaching on creation care and climate change rather than "business as usual"? What changes—individual and structural—would we need to make?
- (B) **brainstorming ideas** ("popcorn" technique— people offer brief phrases) that present alternatives to the "business as usual" model based on Catholic teaching.

SO NOW WHAT?

Now that the group has understood the PAS document, seen the TED talk and discussed core principles, it is time to move to action. For many, they may be feeling a sense of hopelessness. Others will want to leap into action. But actions can help move people forward. They might be small and personal or larger and corporate. But the goal should be to move everyone to commit to something. You can say:

After seeing and understanding the evidence of climate change and reflecting on our Church's teaching, you may be feeling a bit hopeless. Before we consider ways that we can respond in faith to human-caused climate change, let's first recall the words of Pope Francis at the 2013 World Youth Day (advance to Prezi slide 30).

To you and to all, I repeat: never yield to discouragement, do not lose trust, do not allow your hope to be extinguished. Situations can change, people can change. Be the first to seek to bring good, do not grow accustomed to evil, but defeat it. The Church is with you, bringing you the precious good of faith, bringing Jesus Christ, who "came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (Jn 10:10).

Inspired by these words, many of us are likely asking the question: What can we do in response to human-caused climate change? As Pope Francis alludes, we have it within us to make the change that is needed. Let's explore that.

Go back to Prezi slide #29. Ask each small group to look at the principles carefully and discern their own "five commandments of care for creation." Commandments can begin with "Honor..." or "Remember..." or "Thou shall not..." Ask that the commandments from the principles, be concrete and active, and consider both individual and communal or societal. Let them know they have 10 minutes to discuss and write their commandments on newsprint, after which they will share with the large group.

After the groups have shared, continue with the following:

I'd like to share some ideas from the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change. One action is to take the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor. For those of you who may have already taken the Pledge, consider how well you have implemented it in your daily life. The Pledge contains 5 parts. (Small group facilitators will ask group members to pick up the St. Francis prayer cards).

Advance to Prezi slide number 31.

Let's read the St. Francis Pledge together:

I/We Pledge to:

- + PRAY and reflect on the duty to care for God's Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable.*
- + LEARN about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change.*
- + ASSESS how we-as individuals and in our families, parishes and other affiliations contribute to climate change by our own energy use, consumption, waste, etc.*
- + ACT to change our choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change.*
- + ADVOCATE for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable.*

Taking the Pledge or acting on the Pledge, if you have already committed to it, can move us forward with greater care for all God's creation so that we can be in solidarity with those who have contributed the least to climate change.

I would also encourage you to register your Pledge on the Coalition's website. You'll then be able to stay abreast of all of the wonderful things happening in the Catholic community on climate change both in the US and around the world. To make it easier tonight, however, we have a sign up sheet that you can fill out.

NAME OF THE PERSON has generously agreed to enter all of the collected St. Francis Pledge information onto the Coalition's website within a week. (Pass around clipboards with HANDOUT 1: St. Francis Pledge Sign Up Form or tell people where to sign the St. Francis Pledge sheet. Please remind them to write their name and email addresses legibly.)

*Additionally, we encourage you to connect with the Coalition on social media by **LIKING** them on facebook at www.facebook.com/catholicclimatecovenant and following them on [Twitter@CatholicClimate](https://twitter.com/CatholicClimate).*

BRAINSTORM GROUP RESPONSES (5 MINUTES)

But what might we do collectively? What can we (parish/school/youth ministry/youth group) do? Take a few minutes to think through what we might do in this parish (or other group) and share those ideas in your small groups. I would ask one person to write and capture all the different ideas on the newsprint. You have just a few minutes, so please allow everyone a chance to speak and keep your responses brief.

After a few minutes say:

Let's take a few minutes to hear what you have come up with. [Invite one person from each group to shout 1-2 responses out to the larger group.]

Offer thanks for their ideas and then note that you will collect all the newsprints so that all ideas may be considered. Consider offering other tools that young people can explore to get further involved. Please review in advance and decide which are most appropriate for your program. Offer those that make the most sense:

Let me share with you two more great tools available from the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change that groups like ours might consider.

1. The first is to gather a few members from this group to serve as peer leaders. Your task will be to review all the small group newsprints and work to develop some concrete action steps that we can take as [Name of group: parish youth group/campus ministry]. If you are interested, please sign up on this sheet before you leave [Hold up and pass around HANDOUT 2 – Peer Leadership Team Sign Up Sheet or indicate where the sheet is located so they can sign up at the end of the session.] There are additional resources we have that can help us think this through further, including a Planning Guide for Dioceses, Parishes and Schools to Take the St. Francis Pledge.

It offers resources and ideas that can assist us in fulfilling the five aspects of the Pledge. [Hold up and pass around HANDOUT 4 – Catholic Climate Covenant Partnership: Planning Guide for Dioceses, Parishes and Schools to Take the St. Francis Pledge.]

2. Who here would like to continue this discussion into the future and learn more? Please raise your hands. If anyone else is interested in learning about this topic further, we can start a small group process using another resource, *Friending Planet Earth*. This resource allows us to gather for 6 sessions and helps us to explore the issue of climate change through the lens of our faith and to understand how our faith calls us to care for all God's creation. If you are interested, please sign up. [Either pass around HANDOUT 5– *Friending Planet Earth* Small Group or indicate where the sheet is located so they can sign up at the end of the session.] We will send out an email to all of you who expressed interest to arrange dates for follow-up on this idea.

If you want to learn more, I also recommend HANDOUT 3– *Resources for Further Study and Action* [Hold up the handout and direct them where to pick it up at the end of the program.]

CONCLUSION (1 MINUTE)

Thank everyone for coming and urge them to stay informed and engaged.

Thank you all for coming to this important event to(day, night). I know there were a number of ideas generated in the last half hour or so. I hope you can commit to some of these individual actions, but I also hope that a core of us can meet again to discuss ways in which we can encourage greater action within our diocese/parish.

Finally, let's close by reading together the declaration by the Pontifical Academy of Science's Working Group together.

Advance to Prezi slide 32.

Together we say:

We call on all people and nations to recognize the serious and potentially irreversible impacts of global warming caused by the anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, and by changes in forests, wetlands, grasslands, and other land uses. We appeal to all nations to develop and implement, without delay, effective and fair policies to reduce the causes and impacts of climate change on communities and ecosystems, including mountain glaciers and their watersheds, aware that we all live in the same home.

By acting now, in the spirit of common but differentiated responsibility, we accept our duty to one another and to the stewardship of a planet blessed with the gift of life. We are committed to ensuring that all inhabitants of this planet receive their daily bread, fresh air to breathe and clean water to drink as we are aware that, if we want justice and peace, we must protect the habitat that sustains us. The believers among us ask God to grant us this wish.

APPENDIX A

About the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change

In 2006, the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change was launched with the support of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and funding from the National Religious Partnership for the Environment. The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change supports and complements USCCB's Environmental Justice Program which is under the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development. The Coalition is a membership organization consisting of fourteen national Catholic organizations which offer advice and assistance in implementing its programs:

- From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:
 - Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development
 - Migration and Refugee Services
- Catholic Charities USA
- Catholic Relief Services
- Catholic Health Association of the United States
- Conference of Major Superiors of Men
- National Catholic Rural Life Conference
- Franciscan Action Network
- National Council of Catholic Women
- Leadership Conference of Women Religious
- Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
- Carmelite NGO
- National Catholic Education Association
- National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry
- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Learn more at: <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/about-us/>.

Frequently Asked Questions

As stated above, we encourage all facilitators to read through the Coalition's Frequently Asked Questions document to understand more clearly questions about climate change and faith, climate change science, political considerations and economic (and poverty) arguments. That link can be accessed here: <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/FAQ-2010.pdf>.

You may also wish to review "Catholic Perspectives on Climate Change and Population: <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/catholic-teachings/climate-change-population/>.

St. Francis Pledge Sign Up Form

[illegible]

GROUP RECORDER: Please enter this information online at www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/the-st-francis-pledge

Please neatly fill out the following if you are interested in helping our campus to more fully care for God's good gift of Creation by forming a peer leadership team.

[illegible]

Resources for Further Study and Action

FOR FURTHER READING ABOUT AUTHENTIC CATHOLIC TEACHING ON CREATION CARE & CLIMATE CHANGE, SEE:

- Pope Benedict XVI. 2010 World Day of Peace Message: If you Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation. Vatican: Holy See. 2010. http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/peace/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20091208_xliii-world-day-peace_en.html
- Pope Benedict XVI. Encyclical Letter Caritas in Veritate. Vatican: Holy See. 2009. http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20090629_caritas-in-veritate_en.html. See in particular Chapter 4, Paragraphs 43-52.
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good. Washington, D.C.: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2001. <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/global-climate-change-a-plea-for-dialogue-prudence-and-the-common-good.cfm>
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Renewing the Earth: An Invitation to Reflection & Action on the Environment in Light of Catholic Social Teaching. . Washington, D.C.: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1991. <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/renewing-the-earth.cfm>
- Pope John Paul II. 1990 World Day of Peace Message: Peace with God the Creator, Peace with all Creation. Vatican: Holy See, 1990. http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/messages/peace/documents/hf_jp-ii_mes_19891208_xxiii-world-day-for-peace_en.html
- Lieberman, Bruce. The Catholic Church and Climate Change. New Haven, C.T.: The Yale Forum on Climate Change & the Media, 2012. <http://www.yaleclimatemediaforum.org/2012/02/the-catholic-church-and-climate-change/>

FOR CURRICULUM AND GROUP STUDY RESOURCES ABOUT AUTHENTIC CATHOLIC TEACHING ON CREATION CARE & CLIMATE CHANGE, SEE:

- JustFaith Ministries' JustFaith Module: God's Creation Cries for Justice. Climate Change: Impact and Response. The approach to global climate change by the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change and the Catholic Bishops' Environmental Justice Program has been to focus on the themes of prudence, poverty and the common good, as well as Catholic social teaching. This eight-session module expands and explores these principles and has a strong emphasis on how climate change will impact the poor at home and abroad. It draws out arguments for and against action, and demonstrates—through both faith and science—the hazards to poor people of doing nothing. http://www.justfaith.org/programs/justmatters-m_godscreation.html
- Friending Planet Earth: Helping Youth Understand Solidarity and Sustainability in Light of Climate Change—A six session learning program designed for high school-aged students (in schools or in youth groups). This resource was developed in partnership with the Center for Ministry Development. <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/>

FOR ADVOCACY AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES AROUND AUTHENTIC CATHOLIC TEACHING ON CREATION CARE & CLIMATE CHANGE, SEE:

Catholics Confront Global Poverty <http://crs.org/globalpoverty/> from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change. See in particular Global Climate Change and our Catholic Response: http://old.usccb.org/sdwp/globalpoverty/ccgp_issues_climatechange.shtml

HANDOUT 3 (PAGE 2 OF 2)



Resources for Further Study and Action

To help the Church understand and apply the commitments of an authentically Catholic worldview, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) outlines Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching (<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/seven-themes-of-catholic-social-teaching.cfm>):

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person | 5. The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers |
| 2. Call to Family, Community, and Participation | 6. Solidarity |
| 3. Rights and Responsibilities | 7. Care for God's Creation |
| 4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable | |

Each of these commitments is an important dimension of Catholic social teaching. However, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith points out that while each principle individually contributes to the Truth of Church teaching, these principles are dynamically related to one another and should therefore not be seen or applied in isolation from one another:

"The Christian faith is an integral unity, and thus it is incoherent to isolate some particular element to the detriment of the whole of Catholic doctrine" (Doctrinal Note on some Questions regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life, 2002).

Many people recognize that climate change relates to Care for God's Creation, however fewer have recognized that the issues of climate change and Care for God's Creation engage all of the other central commitments that make up Catholic social teaching; as Pope John Paul II reminds us:

"[W]e cannot interfere in one area of the ecosystem without paying due attention both to the consequences of such interference in other areas and to the well-being of future generations" (1990 World Day of Peace Message, No. 6)

WHILE CLIMATE CHANGE IS THUS CONNECTED TO ALL SEVEN KEY THEMES, THE ISSUE IS PARTICULARLY RELATED TO:

1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person

- "Our tradition calls us to protect the life and dignity of the human person, and it is increasingly clear that this task cannot be separated from the care and defense of all of creation." (USCCB, *Renewing the Earth: An Invitation to Reflection and Action on the Environment in Light of Catholic Social Teaching*, 1991).
- "[H]ow can we separate, or even set at odds, the protection of the environment and the protection of human life, including the life of the unborn?" (Pope Benedict XVI, 2010 Address to the Diplomatic Corps).
- "The way humanity treats the environment influences the way it treats itself, and vice versa" (Pope Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter *Caritas in Veritate*, 2009, No. 51).

4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

- "People living in poverty—both at home and abroad—contribute least to climate change but they are likely to suffer its worst consequences with few resources to adapt and respond." (USCCB & Catholic Relief Services, *Catholics Confront Global Poverty*, 2010).
- "The effects of climate change—increasingly limited access to water, reduced crop yields, more widespread disease, increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters, and conflict over declining resources—are making the lives of the world's poorest people even more precarious." (USCCB & Catholic Relief Services, *Catholics Confront Global Poverty*, 2010).
- "[E]nvironmental degradation makes the life of the poor especially unbearable." (Pope Benedict XVI, *Angelus* August 27, 2006).

For more, visit <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Climate-Change-and-Catholic-Social-Teaching.pdf>



Catholic Climate Covenant Partnership – Planning Guide for Dioceses, Parishes and Schools to Take the St. Francis Pledge

The Catholic Climate Covenant: **The St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor** is widely embraced by the Catholic community. More than forty five national Catholic organizations have publicly affirmed their commitment to Catholic mission-based sustainability by endorsing the St. Francis Pledge as a Catholic Climate Covenant Partner. Dozens of parishes have become Partners, as have seven dioceses/archdioceses:

- Archdiocese of Los Angeles
- Archdiocese of Cincinnati
- Archdiocese of Hartford
- Archdiocese of Ottawa (Canada)
- Diocese of Green Bay
- Diocese of Stockton
- Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux

In September 2011, the Coalition published a step-by-step Planning Guide for Dioceses, Parishes and Schools to Take the St. Francis Pledge, available for free download at:

<http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Parish-Planning-Guide-FINAL.pdf>.

In the guide, you will find tips and suggestions to help you:

- Prepare for a meeting with diocesan/parish/school decision makers;
- Meet with decision makers;
- Convene a committee/key stakeholders.

The **Planning Guide** also has links to resources for you to promote and integrate the St. Francis Pledge into the life of your diocese/parish. These resources include:

- Catholic Climate Ambassadors (trained speakers to available to offer presentations at your diocese/parish);
- Friending Planet Earth: Helping Youth Understand Climate Change and Respond in Faith;
- The Franciscan Action Network's C4C (Care for Creation) program;
- God's Creation Cries for Justice- A Faithful Response to Climate Change (a module from the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change and JustFaith);
- St. Francis Pledge implementation suggestions from the Archdiocese of Hartford;
- Global Climate Change: A Catholic Response – a five-session study guide from the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

To download a free copy of **Planning Guide for Dioceses, Parishes and Schools to Take the St. Francis Pledge**, visit <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Parish-Planning-Guide-FINAL.pdf>



Catholic Climate Covenant Partnership – Planning Guide for Dioceses, Parishes and Schools to Take the St. Francis Pledge

WHAT

Official endorsement of the Catholic Climate Covenant: *The St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor*, by which the diocese/parish commits itself to:

- PRAY and reflect on the duty to care for God's Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable;
- LEARN about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change and environmental degradation;
- ASSESS how we-as individuals and in our families, parishes and other affiliations-contribute to climate change and environmental degradation;
- ACT to change our choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change and environmental degradation;
- ADVOCATE for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change and environmental discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable.

WHY

Recognize that caring for God's good gift of Creation is a requisite part of Christian life (mission fidelity)

- *"Christians, in particular, realize that their responsibility within creation and their duty towards nature and the Creator are an essential part of their faith."* – Pope John Paul II, 1990 World Day of Peace Message, no. 15

Appreciate the unique contributions of Catholic mission to sustainability (mission integration)

- Creation as God's good gift to be "cultivate[d] and care[d] for" (Genesis 2:15)
- Environmental degradation compromises additional Catholic commitments
 - o Protect and defend human life and dignity: "[H]ow can we separate, or even set at odds, the protection of the environment and the protection of human life, including the life of the unborn?" –Pope Benedict XVI, 2010 Message to the Diplomatic Corps
 - o Exercise a fundamental option for the poor and vulnerable: "Environmental degradation makes the life of the poor especially unbearable." –Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, August 27, 2006

Stand in solidarity with 45+ Catholic organizations that have become Partners by endorsing the *St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor*

HOW

Notify the Coalition of institutional endorsement by sending an email to:

info@catholicclimatechange.org

THEN WHAT

- **Diocese/Parish**
 - o Publicize Partnership
 - o Encourage diocesan/parish community members to take the Pledge & register commitments at www.catholicclimatecovenant.org
 - o Convene a *St. Francis Pledge* Committee and discern a diocesan/parish Catholic Mission-Based Sustainability Plan
 - o Link to Coalition from diocesan/parish website
- **Coalition:**
 - o Add institution's name to Partner list
 - o Promote institutional stories in weekly Newsletter
 - o Facilitate communication between and among PartnersDevelop resources (pastoral, ministerial, etc.) university Partners

MELTING ICE, MENDING CREATION: A Catholic Approach to Climate Change

HANDOUT 6



Coming in November 2013:

***Environmental Justice and Climate Change,
Assessing Pope Benedict XVI's Ecological Vision
for the Catholic Church in the United States***

Lexington Press. Pages: 322

978-0-7391-8380-9 Hardback \$100 (£59.95)

978-0-7391-8381-6 eBook \$99.99 (£59.95)

The book will contain twelve essays by lay, ordained, and religious Catholic theologians and scholars, along with a presentation and a homily by bishops, reflecting on the ecological commitments of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI (called 'the green pope') found in his writings, statements, and practical initiatives. To learn more and order copies, visit <http://roman.com/ISBN/9780739183809>.

Edited by Jame Schaefer and Tobias Winright

Contributions by Mary Ashley; Michael Baur; John T. Brinkman; David Clothier; Anselma Dolcich-Ashley; Elizabeth Groppe; Scott G. Hefelfinger; Kevin W. Irwin; Bishop Donald Kettler; Christiana Z. Peppard; Jame Schaefer; Bishop Bernard Unabali; Jeremiah Vallery; Keith Douglass Warner; Matthew Philipp Whelan and Tobias Winright

Environmental Justice and Climate Change, Assessing Pope Benedict XVI's Ecological Vision for the Catholic Church in the United States contains twelve essays by lay, ordained, and religious Catholic theologians and scholars, along with a presentation and a homily by bishops and explores four key areas in connection with Benedict XVI's teachings: human and natural ecology/human life and dignity; solidarity, justice, poverty and the common good; sacramentality of creation; and our Catholic faith in action. The product of mutual collaboration by bishops, scholars and staff, this anthology provides the most thorough treatment of Benedict XVI's contributions to ecological teaching and offers fruitful directions for advancing concern among Catholics in the United States about ongoing threats to the integrity of Earth.